



Billing Code: 4510-43-P

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Mine Safety and Health Administration

Proposed Extension of Existing Information Collection;

Petitions for Modification of Mandatory Safety Standards .

AGENCY: Mine Safety and Health Administration, Labor.

ACTION: Request for public comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of Labor, as part of its continuing effort to reduce paperwork and respondent burden, conducts a pre-clearance consultation program to provide the general public and Federal agencies with an opportunity to comment on proposed and continuing collections of information in accordance with the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995. This program helps to assure that requested data can be provided in the desired format, reporting burden (time and financial resources) is minimized, collection instruments are clearly understood, and the impact of collection requirements on respondents can be properly assessed. Currently, the Mine Safety and Health Administration is soliciting comments concerning the extension of the information collection for 30 CFR 44.9, 44.10, and 44.11. OMB last approved this information collection request on January 8, 2010. The package expires on January 31, 2013.

DATES: All comments must be postmarked or received by midnight Eastern Time on (INSERT DATE 60 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE FEDERAL REGISTER).

ADDRESSES: Comments concerning the information collection requirements of this notice must be clearly identified with "OMB 1219-0065" and sent to the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA). Comments may be sent by any of the methods listed below.

- *Federal E-Rulemaking Portal:*
<http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments.
- *Facsimile:* 202-693-9441, include "OMB 1219-0065" in the subject line of the message.
- *Regular Mail or Hand Delivery:* MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2350, Arlington, VA 22209-3939. For hand delivery, sign in at the receptionist's desk on the 21st floor.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Greg Moxness, Chief, Economic Analysis Division, Office of Standards, Regulations, and Variances, MSHA, at moxness.greg@dol.gov (e-mail); 202-693-9440 (voice); or 202-693-9441 (facsimile).

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

Section 101(c) of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 (Mine Act), 30 U.S.C. § 811(c), provides that a mine operator or a representative of miners may petition the Secretary of Labor (Secretary) to modify the application of a mandatory safety standard. A petition for modification may be granted if the Secretary determines (1) that an alternative method of achieving the results of the standard exists and that it will guarantee, at all times, no less than the same measure of protection for the miners affected as that afforded by the standard, or (2) that the application of the standard will result in a diminution of safety to the miners affected.

Upon receipt of a petition, MSHA publishes a notice in the Federal Register advising interested parties that they may provide comments or other relevant information on the proposed modification. Thereafter, MSHA conducts an investigation to determine the merits of the petition for the purpose of deciding whether or not to grant it and, if granted, whether there is a need for any additional terms or conditions. This information collection addresses the recordkeeping associated with 30 CFR 49.9, 44.10, and 44.11.

II. Desired Focus of Comments

The Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) is soliciting comments concerning the proposed extension of the information collection related to this safety standard on petitions for modification of mandatory safety standards. MSHA is particularly interested in comments that:

- Evaluate whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information has practical utility;
- Evaluate the accuracy of the MSHA's estimate of the burden of the collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;
- Suggest methods to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and
- Address the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology (e.g., permitting electronic submissions of responses) to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond.

The public may examine publicly available documents, including the public comment version of the supporting statement, at MSHA, Office of Standards, Regulations, and

Variances, 1100 Wilson Boulevard, Room 2350, Arlington, VA 22209-3939. OMB clearance requests are available on MSHA's website at <http://www.msha.gov> under "Rules & Regs" on the right side of the screen by selecting [Information Collections Requests](#), [Paperwork Reduction Act Supporting Statements](#). The document will be available on MSHA's website for 60 days after the publication date of this notice. Comments submitted in writing or in electronic form will be made available for public inspection. Because comments will not be edited to remove any identifying or contact information, MSHA cautions the commenter against including any information in the submission that should not be publicly disclosed. Questions about the information collection requirements may be directed to the person listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION section of this notice.

III. Current Actions

The information contained in an approved petition for modification is used by MSHA during inspections to determine compliance with the relevant safety standard. MSHA has updated the data with respect to the number of respondents and responses, as well as the total burden hours and total annual cost burden supporting this information collection extension request.

Summary

Type of Review: Extension

Agency: Mine Safety and Health Administration

Title: Petitions for Modification of Mandatory Safety Standards

OMB Number: 1219-0065

Affected Public: Business or other for-profit

Cite/Reference/Form/etc: 30 CFR 44.9, 44.10, and 44.11

Total Number of Respondents: 80

Frequency: Infrequent

Total Number of Responses: 80

Total Burden Hours: 2,560 hours

Other Cost Burden: \$37,514

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and included in the request for Office of Management and Budget approval of the information collection request; they will also become a matter of public record.

Authority: 44 U.S.C. 3506 (c) (2) (A) .

George F. Triebsch
Certifying Officer

Dated: July 31, 2012

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